

## Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /147 W

----- 063862

R 110820Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3954

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BY, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN ON US BURUNDI RELATIONS

REF BUJUMBURA 638

SUMMARY: FONMIN EXPRESSED CONCERN TO AMBASSADOR AUG 10  
CONCERNING ASPECTS OF RECENT US POLICY TOWARD BURUNDI.  
DISCUSSION WAS POINTED BUT AMICABLE AND REFLECTED NO  
APPARENT INTENT TOSEEK CHANGE IN PRESENT MODUS VIVENDI.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN ARTEMON SIMBANANIYE THIS  
MORNING ON OTHER MATTERS, HE AGAIN RAISED SUBJECT OF OVERALL  
RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND BURUNDI.

2. SIMBANANIYE NOTED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM HAD  
DISCUSSED THIS QUESTION AT LENGTH WITH AMBASSADOR NDABANIEW IN  
JUNE, AGAIN MAKING CLEAR THAT RELATION WITH BURUNDI WERE TO BE  
HELD "FROZEN." THERE HAD, MOREOVER, BEEN TALK IN POLITICAL  
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AND PRESS CIRCLES IN US OF ACTION AGAINST BURUNDI COFFEE

AND EVEN, AT ONE POINT, COMPARISONS MADE BETWEEN SITUATIONS IN BURUNDI AND SOUTH AFRICA. FINALLY, THERE WERE REPORTS, WHICH APPEARED TO BE CORRECT, THAT USG HAD APPROACHED CERTAIN AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE, AS WELL AS SECRETARIED GENERAL OF UN AND OAU, WITH REGARD TO INTERNAL SITUATION IN BURUNDI, AN IMPORTANT STEP IN VIEW OF WEIGHT CARRIED BY US IN WORLD AFFAIRS. FONMIN LEFT PRESENTATION HANGIN WITH THESE REMARKS BUT SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE MY COMMENTS.

3. I REVIEWED WITH FONMIN BACKGROUND OF US DECISION TAKEN LAST OCTOBER AND RECONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR NDABANIYE IN JUNE TO REDUCE RELATIONS TO MINIMUM LEVEL (NOT "FREEZE"). AS HE KNOW AND HAD MENTIONED, THIS HAD MEANT SUSPECISION OF ALL PROGRAMS WHICH HAD PROVIDED A LINK AT FUNCTIONAL LEVEL BETWEEN BARUNDI AND AMERICAN PEOPLES, WITH EXCEPTION OF HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES PROGRAM. LATTER THEREFORE ASSUMED UNUSUAL IMPORTANCE IN TOTAL ASSESSMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS. THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK AT RELATIONS WITH BURUNDI IN THE LIGHT OF CRITERIA OF WHICH HE WAS AWARE. THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER RELATIONS COULD ALSO BE AFFECTED BY EVENTS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH HAD BROKEN THE CALM OF BURUNDI AND THE AREA THREE MONTHS AGO. WITHIN THESE STRICTURES IMPOSED BY REACTIONS WITHIN AMERICAN PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL CIRCLES TO REPORTS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BURUNDI, THE EMBASSY WOULD OBVIOUSLY SEEK TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL AND NORMAL PERSONAL AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS.

4. I NOTED IN RESPONSE TO HIS OTHER COMMENTS THAT (A) GRB HAD BEEN ADVISED OF OFFICIAL USG POSITION ON COFFEE QUESTION, AS PUT FORWARD BY STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN; (B) MR NEWSOM HAD EMPHASIZED TO AMBASSADOR NDABANIWE PROBLEMS CREATED FOR US POLICY IN AFRICA BY DIFFICULTIES IN BURUNDI-- FONMIN'S REMARK ABOUT PARALLELS BEING DRAWN BETWEEN SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND BURUNDI SITUATIONS ILLUSTRATED QUESTIONS BEING POSED BY OUTSIDE OBSERVERS IN THIS REGARD; (C) CONCERNING US EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH AFRICANS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAD INDEED EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AND SEARCHED FOR COMMON APPROACH TO WAYS OF ASSURING NON-VIOLENT SOLUTION TO QUESTIONS WHICH SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BARUNDI PEOPLE.  
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NDABANIQE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THIS IN NO WAY REPRESENTED US INTENTION INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS AND THAT APPROACH LIMITED TO NON-PUBLIC FORUMS.

5. CONVERSATION WAS AMICABLE, AND FONMIN AND I PARTED WITH ASSURANCES OF OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

6. IT APPEARED THAT SIMBANANIYE HAD IN MIND  
EXPLORING CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS AS US SEES IT, AND  
US INTENTIONS, RATHER THAN EFFORT MOVE THESE RELATIONS EITHER  
FORWARD OR BACK AT THIS TIME. MEETING WAS AT MY INITIATIVE,  
AND I MAY HAVE BEEN PART A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY, THOUGH  
ONE FOR WHICH HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PRIMED. SIMBANANIYE DID NOT  
REFER TO OUR PREVIOUS EXCHANGE (REFTEL) WHICH COVERED  
SOME OF SAME GROUND.YOST

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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